Production of Milk

526. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that milk production has increased by over 4.6 per cent annually over the last 10 years and is expected to go up this year;

(b) whether Government propose to export Babyfoods and other indigenous milk products as these are in great demand abroad specially Amul and NDDB developed products like 'Shrikhand' to ensure that milk producer prices do not fall due to milk glut; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that milk production has gone up due to import of cattlefeed, skimmed milk powder and buttercil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The milk production is expected to go up this year.

(b) There is no proposal to export baby foods and other indigenous milk products.

(c) There has been no import of cattle-feed. Increase in milk production from indigenous sources was due to all round efforts made in the fields of breeding, feeding, and health cover through the implementation of both Central and State sector schemes for the development of cattle buffaloes, production enhancement and marketing programmes implemented through Operation Food. Resources generated through the gift commodities received under Operation Flood have assisted in generating part of the resources for implementation of Operation Flood.

Irregularities in recruitment made by ASRB

527. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Hindustan Times of the 31st December, 1988 under the caption 'Scientists recent nepotism' regarding irregularities in the recruitment made by the Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board;

(b) whether any inquiry was made into the matter; and

(c) if so, what are the findings thereof and action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The allegations are general in nature and are without any substance.

Utilisation of Capacities of Milk Processing Plants

528. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NDDB had overspent Rs. 400 crores on milk processing plants for creating capacities to handle 200 lakh litres of milk per day while existing milk procurement is only around 75 lakh litres per day; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what efforts have been made to utilise the capacities of milk processing plants to the maximum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) An amount of Rs. 389.8 crores has been spent towards creating milk processing, conservation and marketing facilities under Operation Flood from the commencement of the Programme in 1970 until February, 1989. The follow-